



ZAMBIA



INTRODUCTION

Multiple waves of Bantu-speaking groups moved into and through what is now Zambia over the past thousand years. In the 1880s, the British began securing mineral and other economic concessions from various local leaders and the territory eventually became known as Northern Rhodesia. The name was changed to Zambia upon independence in 1964.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Hakainde HICHILEMA

Head of Government

President Hakainde HICHILEMA

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Lusaka

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (167 seats)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

lower middle-income Sub-Saharan economy; major copper exporter; high public debt is held mostly by China; systemic corruption; one of youngest and fastest growing labor forces; regional hydroelectricity exporter; extreme rural poverty

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$60.12 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$3,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - copper mining/processing, emerald mining, construction, foodstuffs, beverages, chemicals, textiles, fertilizer, horticulture

Agricultural products - sugarcane, cassava, maize, milk, vegetables, soybeans, beef, tobacco, wheat, groundnuts

Exports \$8.55 billion (2020 est.)

copper, gold, gemstones, sulfuric acid, raw sugar, tobacco (2019)
partners: Switzerland 29%, China 16%, Namibia 12%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 9%, Singapore 5% (2019)

Imports \$5.92 billion (2020 est.)

refined and crude petroleum, delivery trucks, gold, fertilizers (2019)

partners: South Africa 29%, China 14%, UAE 12%, India 5% (2019)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 752,618 sq km

Land: 743,398 sq km

Water: 9,220 sq km

Climate

tropical; modified by altitude; rainy season (October to April)

Natural Resources

copper, cobalt, zinc, lead, coal, emeralds, gold, silver, uranium, hydropower

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

19.1 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

2.93% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Bemba 21%, Tonga 13.6%, Chewa 7.4%, Lozi 5.7%, Nsenga 5.3%, Tumbuka 4.4%, Ngoni 4%, other 38.2%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

Language

Bemba 33.4%, Nyanja 14.7%, Tonga 11.4%, Lozi 5.5%, Chewa 4.5%, other 30.2%, unspecified 0.2% (2010 est.)

Religion

Protestant 75.3%, Roman Catholic 20.2%, other 2.7% (includes Muslim Buddhist, Hindu, and Baha'i), none 1.8% (2010 est.)

